

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Call to Order: Chairman Jon C. Sesso, on March 11, 2009 at 2:40 P.M., in Room 102 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Jon C. Sesso, Chairman (D)
Rep. Duane Ankney (R)
Rep. Dennis Getz (D)
Rep. Bill E. Glaser (R)
Rep. Ray Hawk (R)
Rep. Teresa K. Henry (D)
Rep. Cynthia Hiner (D)
Rep. Roy Hollandsworth (R)
Rep. Galen Hollenbaugh (D)
Rep. Dave Kasten (R)
Rep. Bill McChesney (D)
Rep. Walter McNutt (R)
Rep. Robert Mehlhoff (D)
Rep. Penny Morgan (R)
Rep. Bill Nooney (R)
Rep. Carolyn Pease-Lopez (D)
Rep. Don Roberts (R)
Rep. Cheryl Steenson (D)
Rep. Dan Villa (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Llew Jones (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Jon Moe, Legislative Branch
Samuel Speerschneider, Committee Secretary

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 250, 3/6/2009; HB 416, 3/6/2009;
HB 459, 3/6/2009; HB 478, 3/6/2009;
HB 643, 3/6/2009; HB 645, 3/6/2009

Executive Action: HB 619, HB 416

00:00:08 Chairman Sesso

EXHIBIT(aph54b01)

00:03:50 Rep. Hollandsworth

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 619

00:04:02 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Hollandsworth moved that **HB 619 BE TABLED**. Motion carried 13-7 by roll call vote with Rep. Getz, Rep. Hiner, Rep. Henry, Rep. McChesney, Rep. Pease-Lopez, Rep. Hollenbaugh, Rep. Steenson voting no. Rep. Roberts, Rep. Steenson, Rep. Jones voted by proxy.

HEARING ON HB 645

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:08:48 Rep. Jon Sesso (D), HD 76, opened the hearing on HB 645, Implement receipt of and appropriate federal stimulus funds.

EXHIBIT(aph54b02)

00:12:46 David Ewer, Budget Director, Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP)

00:38:37 Chairman Sesso

00:41:04 Clayton Schenck, Legislative Fiscal Analyst

00:43:06 Taryn Purdy, Legislative Fiscal Division

00:54:13 Rep. Villa

00:54:45 Terry Johnson, Principal Fiscal Analyst

00:55:23 Rep. Villa

00:55:42 Mr. Johnson

00:55:54 Rep. Nooney

00:56:25 Mr. Ewer

00:56:49 Rep. Nooney

00:57:13 Mr. Ewer

00:59:55 Rep. Henry

01:00:43 Ms. Purdy

01:01:07 Rep. Henry

01:01:27 Ms. Purdy

01:02:28 Rep. Henry

01:03:14 Ms. Purdy

01:04:46 Rep. Morgan
01:05:39 Mr. Ewer
01:07:43 Rep. Morgan
01:08:04 Mr. Ewer
01:08:46 Rep. Morgan
01:08:58 Mr. Ewer
01:09:12 Rep. Glaser
01:10:10 Mr. Ewer
01:10:15 Rep. Glaser
01:10:25 Rep. Villa
01:10:57 Mr. Ewer
01:11:13 Rep. Villa
01:11:48 Mr. Ewer
01:13:05 Rep. Villa
01:13:47 Mr. Schenck
01:14:46 Rep. Nooney
01:15:34 Ms. Purdy
01:16:40 Rep. Nooney
01:16:48 Ms. Purdy

Comments from the Sponsor:

01:17:09 Chairman Sesso

01:18:54 Recess
01:40:05 Reconvene

HEARING ON HB 250

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:40:15 Rep. Gary MacLaren (R), HD 89, opened the hearing on
HB 250, Revise comprehensive health care act and
provide funding mechanism.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:42:56 Cecil Bykerk, Executive Director, Montana Comprehensive
Health Association (MCHA)

EXHIBIT(aph54b03)

01:54:19 Frank Cote, Blue Cross Blue Shield

EXHIBIT(aph54b04)

01:55:26 Susan Witte, Allegiance Life Insurance Company
01:56:13 Jessica Rhoades, State Auditors Office

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

01:57:12 Rep. MacLaren

HEARING ON HB 459

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:58:59 Rep. Wanda Grinde (D), HD 48, opened the hearing on
HB 459, Create and fund K-12 distance learning network.

Proponents' Testimony:

02:00:18 Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT
02:03:56 Dave Puyear, Montana Rural Education Association
02:05:01 Bob Vogel, Montana School Board Association
02:06:17 Bob Runkle, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Public
Instruction
02:07:28 Bonnie Lorang, General Manager, Montana Independent
Telecommunications Systems (MITS)
02:08:35 Rep. Glaser

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:10:55 Rep. Morgan
02:11:36 Rep. Grinde
02:11:47 Rep. Morgan
02:11:52 Rep. Grinde

Closing by Sponsor:

02:12:22 Rep. Grinde

HEARING ON HB 478

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:13:02 Rep. Wanda Grinde (D), HD 48, opened the hearing on
HB 478, Eliminate licensing fees for small plant
sellers.

Proponents' Testimony:

02:15:10 Julia Page, Northern Plains Resource Council

Opponents' Testimony:

02:16:37 Greg Ames, Administrator, Sciences Division, Montana
Department of Agriculture

EXHIBIT (aph54b05)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:19:36 Rep. Getz
02:20:04 Mr. Ames
02:22:00 Rep. Getz
02:22:17 Rep. Grinde
02:24:18 Chairman Sesso
02:24:57 Jon Moe, Legislative Fiscal Division
02:25:16 Chairman Sesso
02:25:35 Rep. McNutt
02:26:16 Rep. Grinde
02:26:25 Rep. McNutt
02:26:45 Mr. Ames
02:27:00 Donna Rice, House Management Bureau Chief, Department
of Agriculture
02:27:40 Rep. McNutt
02:27:56 Rep. Grinde
02:28:30 Chairman Sesso
02:28:57 Mr. Ames
EXHIBIT (aph54b06)
02:29:49 Rep. Morgan
02:30:30 Rep. Grinde
02:30:58 Rep. Hollandsworth
02:31:28 Mr. Ames

Closing by Sponsor:

02:32:29 Rep. Grinde

HEARING ON HB 416

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:33:55 Rep. Margaret MacDonald (D), HD 54, opened the hearing
on HB 416, Exempt certain biodiesel from state tax.

Proponents' Testimony:

02:39:54 Julia Page, Northern Plains Resource Council

02:41:26 Matt Elsaesser, City Council, Helena

EXHIBIT (aph54b07)

02:43:03 Rep. Getz

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:44:21 Rep. Mehlhoff

02:44:47 Rep. MacDonald

02:46:38 Rep. Hollandsworth

02:47:22 Rep. McNutt

02:47:58 Rep. MacDonald

02:48:39 Rep. McNutt

02:48:53 Rep. Mehlhoff

Closing by Sponsor:

02:49:46 Rep. MacDonald

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 416

02:51:14 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Getz moved that **HB 416 DO PASS.**

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

HEARING ON HB 643

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:51:52 Rep. Timothy Furey (D), HD 91, opened the hearing on
HB 643, County grant funding to assist with search and
rescue for vulnerable populations.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:55:52 Rep. Hollandsworth

02:56:14 Rep. Furey
02:56:41 Chairman Sesso
02:56:51 Rep. Furey

Closing by Sponsor:

02:57:20 Rep. Furey

ADJOURNMENT

02:57:48 Adjournment: 5:45 P.M.

Samuel Speerschneider, Secretary

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Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([aph54b08](#)) Petition on HB 645

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT ([aph54bad.pdf](#))